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Additional Presentations: Domestic Animals in Nature

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The Role of Domestic Animals in the Teaching and Management of Nature





Popular feral cat feeding station on the Ballona Creek Bike Path inside the chain link along Area C of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve



Popular Feeding Station for Feral Cats

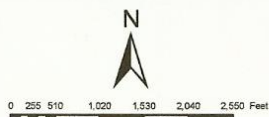


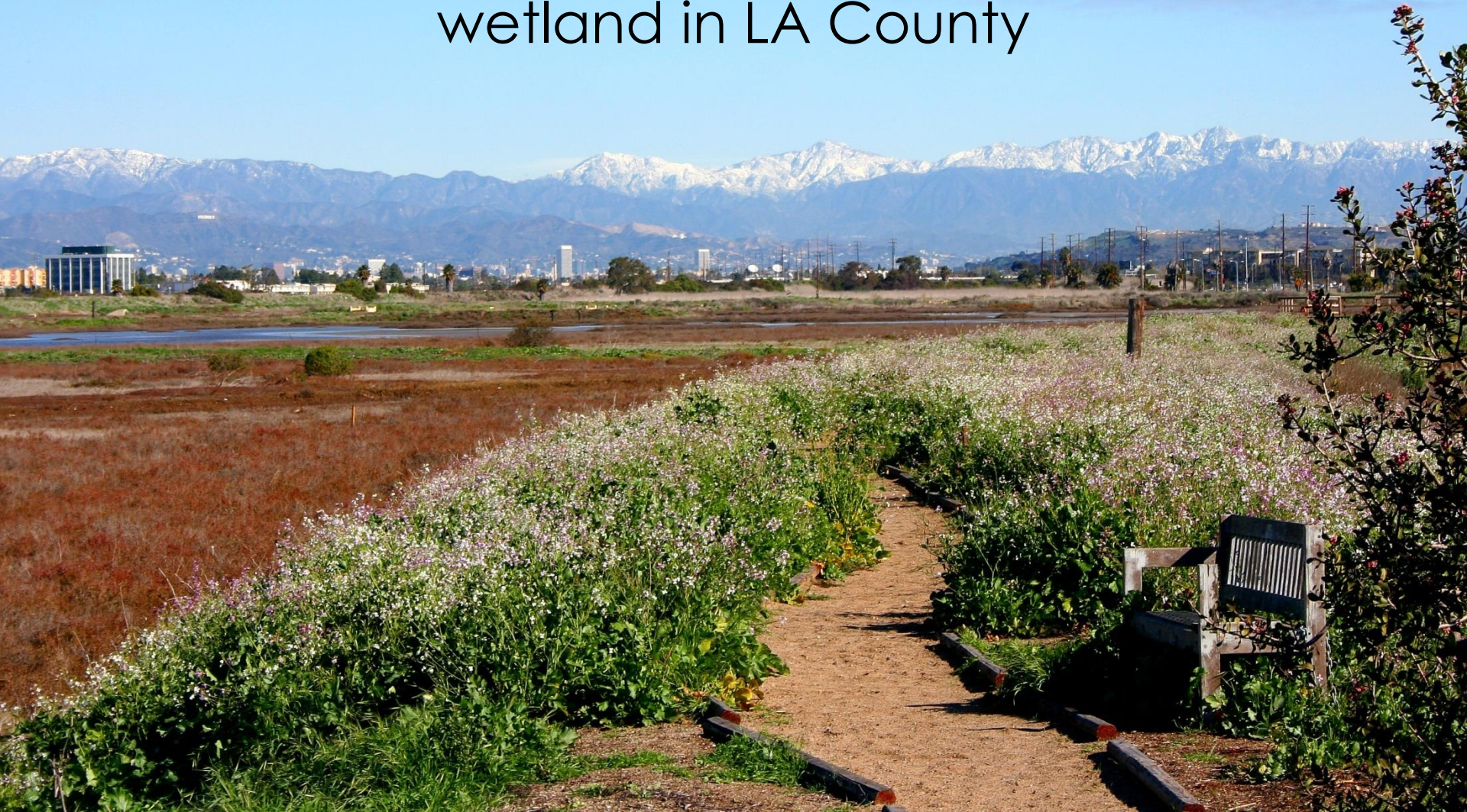
figure 1-1

Ballona Wetlands Restoration
Project Area

Proj. # 1793



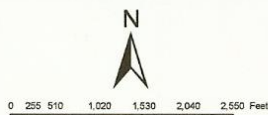
The Ballona Wetlands are the
last remaining open space
wetland in LA County



Ballona – Death by Development



Ballona – Death by Development



**Marina del Rey Harbor
took up 900 acres**

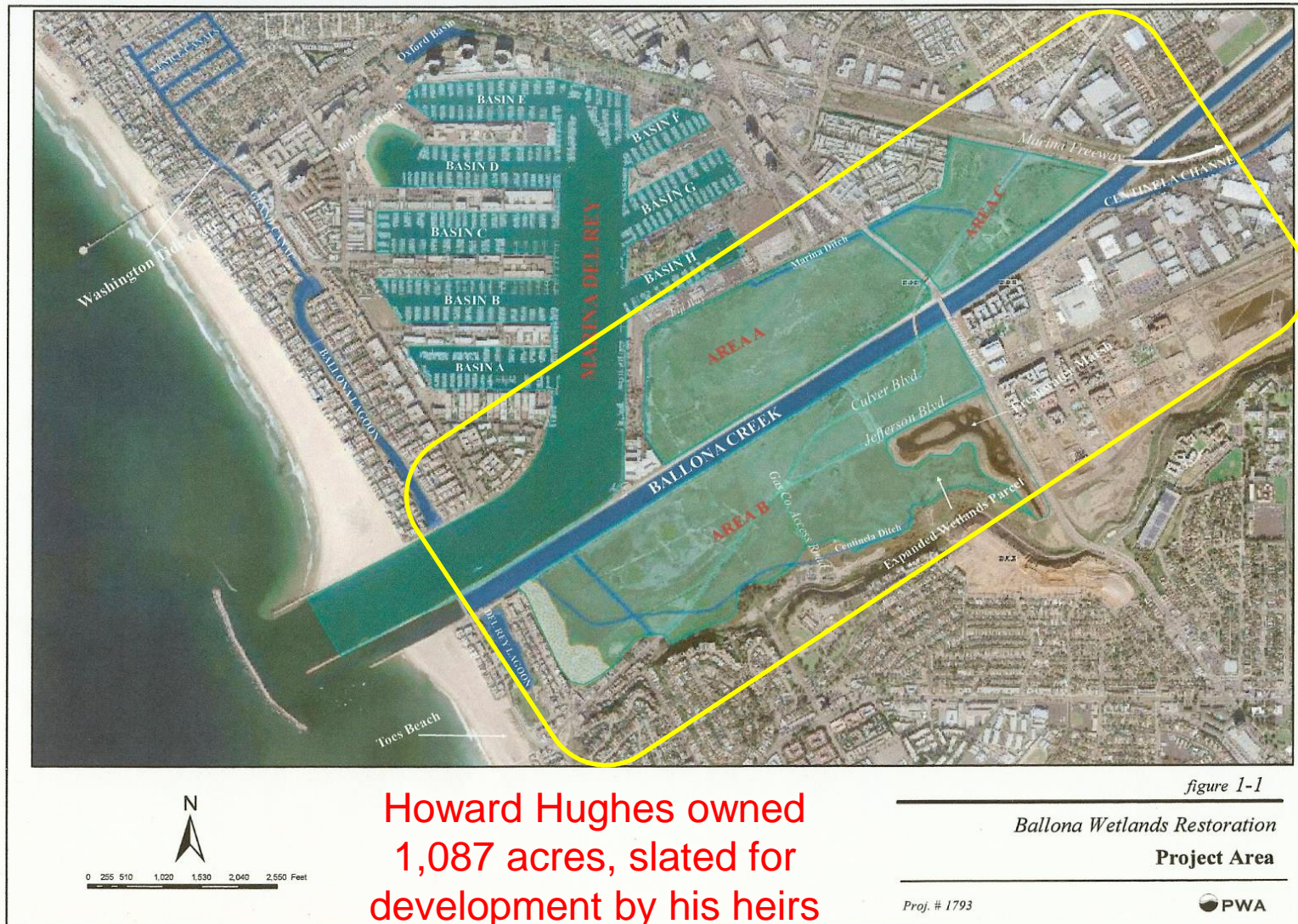
figure 1-1

*Ballona Wetlands Restoration
Project Area*

Proj. # 1793

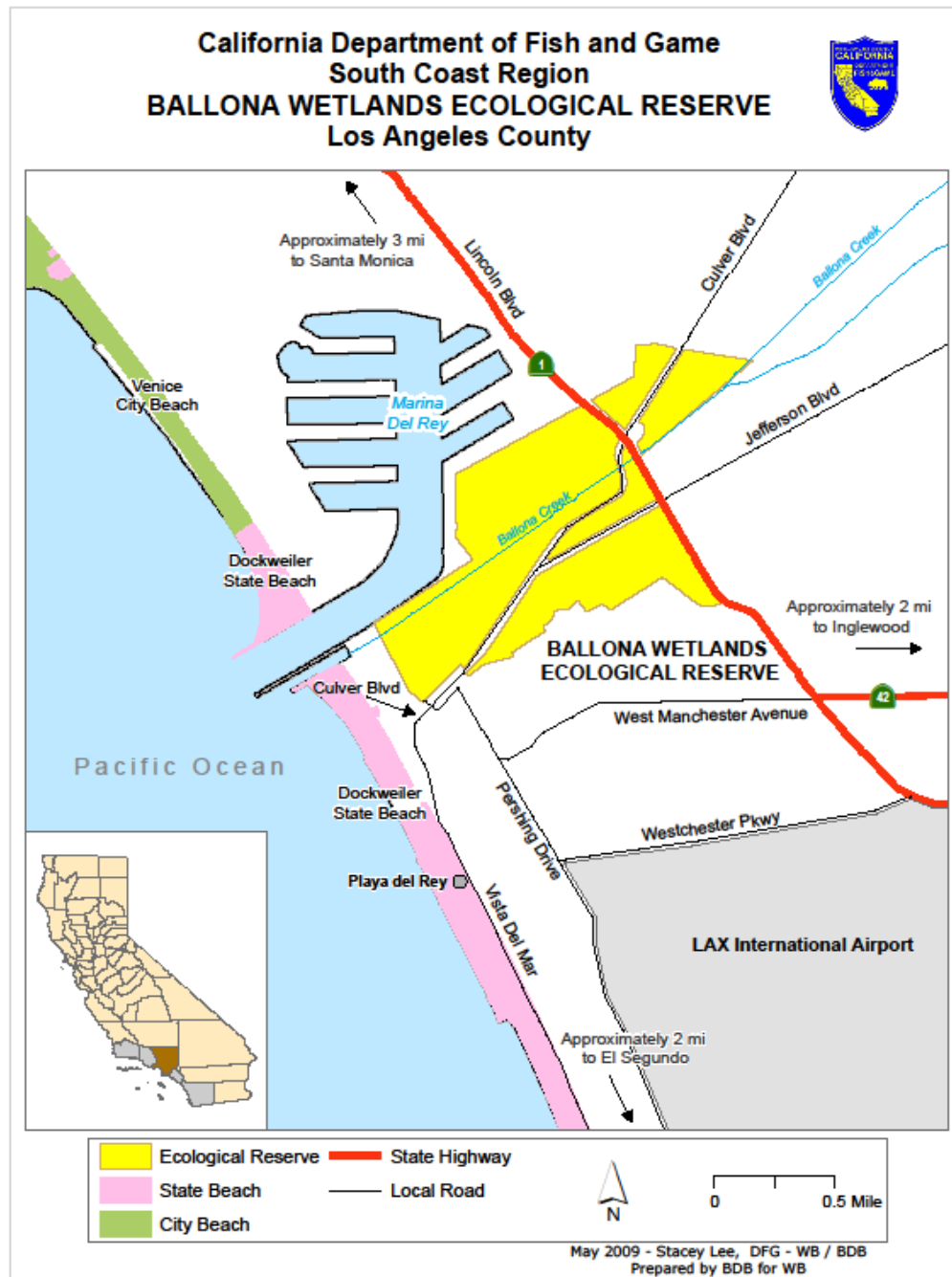


Ballona – Death by Development



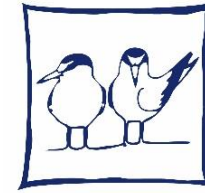
Howard Hughes owned
1,087 acres, slated for
development by his heirs

In 2005
600 of the original
2,000 acres of the
historical
Ballona Wetlands
(in yellow)
officially becomes
an
Ecological Reserve



Ballona Discovery Park

Located at: 13110 Bluff Creek Drive,
(off Lincoln Boulevard) Playa Vista, CA 90094



**FRIENDS OF
BALLONA
WETLANDS**

Center for Urban Resilience (CUREs)

<http://cures.lmu.edu/our-programs/education/ballona-discovery-park/>

Friends of Ballona Wetlands

http://www.ballonafriends.org/visit_discovery_park.html



CUREs Contact:
(310) 338-5104
CUREs@lmu.edu
<http://cures.lmu.edu/>

Friends Contact:
(310) 306-5994
info@ballonafriends.org
<http://www.ballonafriends.org/>



Loyola Marymount University and Friends of Ballona Wetlands Education Partnerships

- Tours
- Research
- Restorations

Projects in the Ballona Wetlands and Service Areas

- Ballona Creek
- Ballona Discovery Park
- Ballona Freshwater Marsh
- Ballona Saltwater Marsh

Where to go to “Explore and Experience Ballona!”





What the Friends are known for...



Successful Dunes Restoration

Over the past 25 years, over 95,000 volunteers have helped restore 8 acres of Dunes Habitat that once covered 30 miles of Southern California Coast Line





The Dunes in 1995



The Dunes in 2008

Thanks to the Friends restoration efforts over the past 25 years, the dunes are now once again home to many forms of life.



Anna's Hummingbird



Common Buckeye Butterfly



Mud Dauber Wasp



Pygmy Blue Butterfly



Acmon Blue Butterfly



Side blotch lizard



Cottontail Rabbit



California King snake



California Legless Lizard



Pacific Tree Frog

...and in July of 2011



... A population of the rare El Segundo Blue Butterfly was found in a restored area of the Ballona Wetlands!

Tongva, People of the Earth



Ballona Wetlands
is a sacred site



Prints of "Wiyot's Children" by Mary Leighton Thomson are available on the Friends Website: <http://www.ballonafriends.org/history.html>

The Tongva people
domesticated wild
dogs who then
became part of their
hunter-gatherer
community



THE CYCLE OF LIFE in the Ballona Wetlands

EVERYTHING IN NATURE IS CONNECTED

All of the life forms that you see in the wetlands are deeply intertwined with each other and with the lives of humans.

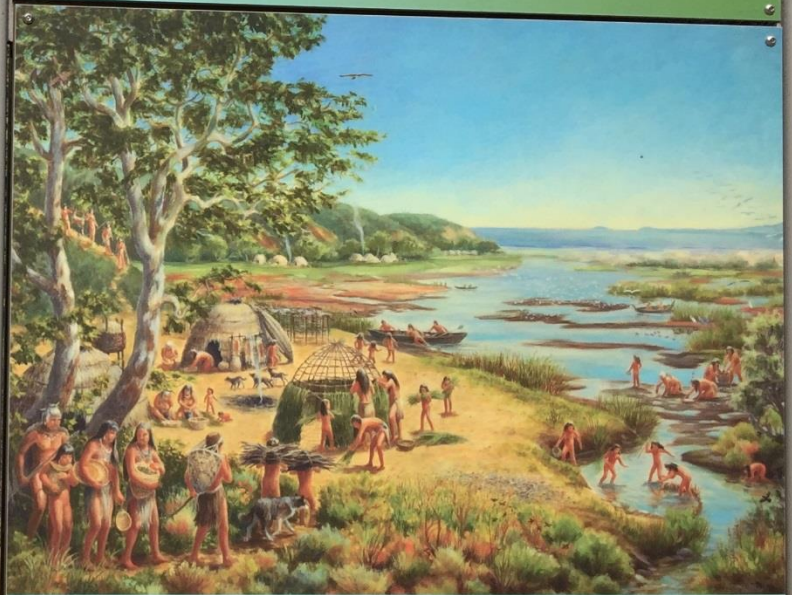


WHAT IS A WETLAND?

The Ballona Wetlands are a combination of habitats. They include the Freshwater Marsh, Salt Marsh, Mud Flats, Lagoons, and Dunes. Learn more about them on the Watershed Walk here in the Park.



THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE: Then and Now



"Wiyot's Children" is an oil painting created by Mary Leighton Thomson. The painting is a product of extensive research that Thomson conducted on the Gabriolino/Tongva people. It is one of only a few depictions showing the early lifestyle of the people native to the Ballona Wetlands.

Humans have depended upon the Ballona Wetlands for thousands of years. The earliest inhabitants of the area were Native Americans.

Ballona Discovery Park – a model of wetlands habitat



With educational displays and interactive learning components

Life in the Lagoons

Biodiversity

From sea lettuce to cormorants, lagoons support plants and animals of all kinds. This diversity of life, or biodiversity, is an important part of any balanced ecosystem. The plants and animals of the lagoon contribute to a larger food web that extends through the entire wetlands. Restoration efforts are helping to maintain these complex interactions.



kid's note



My Dog stays on a leash

kid's note



I keep my cat inside



Hunting cat captured by motion sensor camera.



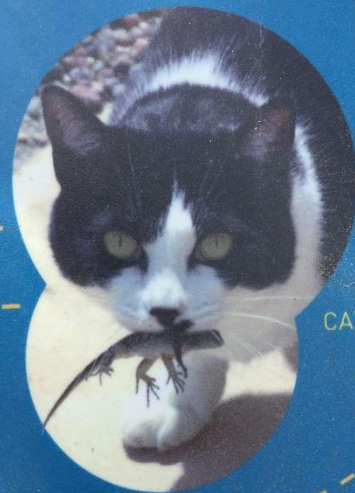
The Challenge of Pets

Household pets can be a significant threat to the natural biodiversity of an area. Native species such as songbirds and rodents may not be prepared to protect themselves. Fragile plant life can be easily damaged by excited, romping animals. The final result is that only a few of the heartiest species will remain. Requiring dogs to be leashed as their owners enjoy the wetlands, and keeping cats at home, are just a couple of ways to support restoration efforts by protecting vulnerable species.

HUMAN



DOG



CAT

DAN

Pet Animal Dumping in the Wetlands



Domestic Rabbits

Pet Animal Dumping in the Wetlands



Red-eared Slider Turtle

Pet Animal Dumping in the Wetlands



Boa Constrictor Snake



Pet Animal Dumping in the Wetlands



Cat

Pet Animal Dumping in the Wetlands



Dog

WHAT CAN I DO?

LOOK OUT FOR
COOL CRITTERS



RIDE MY BIKE



LIMIT USE OF
PESTICIDES AND
FERTILIZERS

ENJOY
THE BEACH



USE A COMMERCIAL
CAR **WASH**
(they use less water)



CARPPOOL



LEASH MY DOG



VOLUNTEER TO KEEP
NATURAL SPACES
CLEAN AND HEALTHY
go to: www.ballonafriends.org



A Delicate Balance



The Delicate balance and diversity of wildlife in the Ballona Dunes can be negatively affected by Domestic Pets



Pygmy Blue Butterfly



Anna's Hummingbird



Common Buckeye Butterfly



Mud Dauber Wasp



Acmon Blue Butterfly



Side blotch lizard



Cottontail Rabbit



California King snake



California Legless Lizard



Pacific Tree Frog

LMU CUREs and its partners The Bay Foundation and Friends of Ballona Wetlands are trying to educate the public about this



Cats and Dogs not only kill other wild creatures when allowed to run free in sensitive habitat they also trample native plants and create biohazards with their feces and urine. Their mere presence is enough to deter wildlife from thriving